

THE MONTANA NEWS.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

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Publisher

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Eugene V. Debs Ben Hanford

AS TO THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN MONTANA.

As the election draws near every move points to an increase in the Socialist ranks. The enthusiasm and awakening of the working class is the feature of the campaign. The old party spellbinder finds it a hard matter to interest the wage earner with his threadbare platitudes as in the days of yore. The great amount of educational work done by the Socialist party in the last few years has had tremendous effect. In Hamilton last week during Mr. Lindsay's speech-making tour, old party enthusiasm has dropped to such a plight that the old party managers, in order to create artificial enthusiasm, found it necessary to employ boys and young men under pay to "whoop 'em up" at the opportune time. These youngsters were managed by a leader, who gave the proper signal. This is not conjecture on the part of The News, but positive proof of this is the fact that the affair was common talk on the streets of Hamilton the following day. We find a like condition existing in all corners of the state, the old party press to the contrary notwithstanding.

We are overburdened with questions bearing on the outcome of the Socialist vote in all parts of the state, but thus far have not ventured a prophesy. And this would be a difficult matter in the face of the complex situation in this corporation ridden state. What we do know is that the thinking, honest wage earner will vote the Socialist ticket in its entirety. The Heinze bugaboo, which heretofore had appearances of interfering with the Socialist vote, has subsided, and all are agreed that as between this gentleman and the Amalgamated it is parallel to a coterie of gamblers dealing with a stacked deck of cards. That Governor Toole will carry with him a number of wage earners who rightfully belong in the Socialist party is a fact. That this adroit politician has sufficient hypnotic power to carry with him, by means of throwing out the usual labor quackery, a certain element of the working class, who have not studied their interests, admits of no argument. These men will be with us in another four years—and we place that as ample time to demonstrate their foolishness in allowing themselves to be led into moves akin to the Toole heresies. That owing to these facts, Comrades Debs and Hanford will run ahead of the state ticket is also a fact. To place the vote of the head of the Socialist ticket in Montana at 10,000 we think is treating it measurably conservative. We are inclined to think that a portion of the Socialist ticket will be elected in Carbon, Silver Bow, Deer Lodge and possibly Ravalli counties. We would not be surprised to witness Socialists elected in all counties where they have a ticket in the field. Socialist agitation exemplified in Montana is not to be excelled anywhere in the United States, all things considered. The Montana News hardly feels called upon to call to the attention of every Socialist in the state, that as the Socialist movement is one of education, the campaign for 1905 starts on November 9th, 1904.

And further we improve the opportunity of calling the attention of the comrades to dwell considerably upon the importance of voting on the two constitutional amendments, the first declaring for making it unlawful to employ children under sixteen in underground mines, and the second providing that a period of eight hours shall constitute a day's work on all works or undertakings carried on or aided by any municipal county or state government, and on all contracts let by them and in mills and smelters for the treatment of ores and in underground mines. Both are working class measures. In passing we might refer to the wisdom of the comrades taking proper steps and precautions in appointing committees to watch the polls carefully and to guard against any irregularities being practiced by the old party politicians in the balloting and in the counting of the votes. Attend the polls early and stay late.

On the whole, The Montana News, in its issue before the final battle for ballots for the year 1904, predicts an increase in the Socialist vote in the state of Montana of sufficient moment that it will even surprise the most sanguine; shake the citadel of capitalism from pit to dome, and vindicate the accepted term that the sturdy mountaineers who inhabit within the confines of this Rocky mountain region, have often been called on and never been found wanting, and on this great occasion have contributed theirs toward the great international movement of the workers of the world in bringing about the emancipation of humankind and the new dawn of man.

ONE MORE OF THE SAME KIND.

Just prior to every election the old partyites select union labor leaders to work upon the rank and file of the union men for the purpose of ensnaring them and delivering their votes to the capitalist class. This year has been no exception to the rule. Under promises of office and other incidentals, the democrats of Lewis and Clarke county have selected upon Mr. Sanden and Mr. Smith, who are of the reactionary type, and are calculated to lead the unguarded union votes into the capitalistic shambles.

As a countervailing stroke, the other wing of the capitalist party

Socialist National and State Ticket

For President—
Eugene V. Debs of Indiana.

For Vice President—
Ben Hanford of New York

For Presidential Electors—
W. N. Holden, of Silver Bow.
J. F. Mabie, of Park.
Joseph Hoar, of Silver Bow.

For Governor—
Malcomb G. O'Malley, Silver Bow.

For Lieutenant Governor—
John W. Frinke, of Deer Lodge.

For Congressman—
J. H. Walsh, of Fergus.

For Chief Justice of Supreme Court—
C. M. Parr, of Silver Bow.

For Clerk of Supreme Court—
John Peters, of Carbon.

For Secretary of State—
Henry Lynch, of Fergus.

For State Treasurer—
Erik Olson, of Cascade.

For State Auditor—
W. C. Phelps, of Lewis & Clarke.

For Attorney General—
E. O. Jackson, of Silver Bow.

For State Superintendent of Public Instruction—
Mrs. R. Anna German, of Silver Bow.



has selected upon one, in the person of Mr. R. J. Lemert, who is to star in the republican wigwag, as an expert on trapping union votes. Mr. Lemert's union record dates back to the time of his arrival in Helena, when he found it necessary to take out a card in the Typographical union, in order to secure a position on the Montana Record. He is a measurably fast talker, but hardly able to impress a unionist who is up to the intelligent standard of a Socialist.

However and anyway, Mr. Lemert's role in the republican comedy is to show up his brother union men, Messrs. Sanden and Smith, as fakirs, for faking in the democratic party and exculpate himself for faking in the republican party.

Mr. Lemert ranks in the category of curiosities who wave a union card vociferously, declare boycotts, issue edicts, anathematize members of the Citizens' Alliance, and disrupt business generally part of the year, and on election periods "touch knees" with the capitalist politicians, intermingle with Citizens' Alliance members, as against the working class, for measly promises of a petty political office.

Mr. Lemert, as a union man and a republican, defends Theodore Roosevelt in ignoring the demands made upon him by the citizens of Colorado and elsewhere to interfere in behalf of stopping the anarchistic raids and cruelties made upon his brother union men in Colorado by a despotic military fanned out to the mine owners to exterminate unionism in the state of Colorado.

Were Mr. Lemert possessor of all the union cards issued by the combined unionized crafts of America, it would not be the means of convincing an intelligent and thinking workman that Mr. Lemert and those of his ilk are not enemies to organized labor, and in the union labor movement for what personal remunerative gain accrues thereto. This must be the conclusions of an unbiased mind.

It is difficult to understand how Mr. Lemert is going to change or control any laboring votes, inasmuch as he does not control his own.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN COLORADO.

The workingmen have made up their minds that organized labor must not be forced to retreat before the bristling bayonets of a hired soldiery, and their slogan is now that Peabodyism must be doomed, damned and buried as deep on the 8th of November that never again in this state shall be heard the treasonable cry: "To hell with the constitution." As a Socialist we recognize the fact that labor will make but little advance in the march towards the goal of industrial emancipation until labor stands, as a class, united at the ballot box, to overthrow the present system that breeds masters and slaves.

We know that the ceaseless struggle will go on between employer and employe, until labor in its political might shall tear from its limbs the chains and shackles of wage slavery.

We know that the laboring people will not vote for Socialism until they know what Socialism means. We know that men will not read until they have learned the alphabet. But we do know that the laboring people of this state will deposit their political protest against Peabody and the republican party on the 8th of November, in order that constitutional government may yet live in the state of Colorado, and that men who have been deported from their homes and families may return under the shelter and protection of the law. The laboring people know that the election of Peabody means the depopulation of the penitentiary to furnish thugs for corporations.

They know that the election of Peabody means the erection of more bull pens in the state; more deportation trains, a further defiance of judicial tribunals and the complete annihilation of the legal rights of the great mass who are found in the avenues of manual toil.

As a Socialist, we will offer no criticism against the laboring people of the state in uniting politically to end the public career of the misfit that disgraces the executive chair of Colorado. When constitutional government prevails again, when citizenship with callous hands has some semblance of protection under the law, the workingmen and women of Colorado can devote some time to the study of the industrial problems and ascertain the remedy that will make impossible another Peabody.—Miners' Magazine.

In other words the editor of the Western Federation of Miners' Magazine, an organization that has repeatedly declared for Socialism, intimates, or rather encourages the members of the craft he represents to vote for Alva Adams, the democratic governor, to avoid a repetition of the late atrocities perpetrated in Colorado. Comrade Eugene V. Debs' opinion of Mr. Adams anent his labor record is not particularly inspiring. Admitting, for the sake of argument, that the democratic governor is elected and Peabody deposed; that the Mine Owners' Association and the Citizens' Alliance continue their onslaught against the Western Federation, and the union finds in Mr. Adams a friend, what assurance have the miners of Colorado that national troops will not be imported into Colorado to lend aid to the capitalists, as was shown in the American Railway Union strike in Chicago?

Suppose that the miners find in Alva Adams a "bad man," or rather a duplicate of Peabody, which is altogether likely, being of the same class, will we find the editor of the Miners' Magazine in 1908 advocating the election of a republican governor on the ground that Alva Adams is a "bad man?" How long is this work to continue? Bosh! The editor narrates his views "as a Socialist." Real Socialists make the distinction as between the man and the system that makes the man. And treating it from the "man" viewpoint: The Socialist ticket has at its head Comrade A. H. Floaten, a man born of the working class—a man who was dragged out of his bed in the middle of the night, his wife assaulted and his business—his all—destroyed, by the Citizens' Alliance, and moreover, who stands for a system that makes Peabody and Peabodyism impossible. Compare Comrade Floaten to Alva Adams from a workingman standpoint. Whom of either do the miners of Colorado desire for governor? Has the persecution of democratic Governor Steunenberg who introduced the bullpen, been sweeter than that of Governor Peabody? It is altogether likely that the workingmen of Colorado desire just a trifle more Peabodyism. The political outcome in Colorado will be watched by all wage earners in the United States with keen interest.

An Associated Press dispatch says that over 1,000 men of the Pennsylvania system were compelled to leave the service of this system on account of the following general order, which has just been made operative:

"No employe of the company who was hired after he reached the age of thirty-five is to be retained. If a man was hired before he was thirty five then he retains his position. On the Cleveland and Pittsburgh railroad alone about fifty employes of the company will be out of positions at midnight."

As the Carnegie steel mills have recently put in force an order of similar nature, it appears that this will be general in all the larger manufacturing establishments in the country. What are the old men to do?

Workingmen: Of the republican, democratic or Socialist parties, which, as a political party, contributed to the support of the Colorado miners? Are you on?



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DEDICATED TO MONTANA SENTIMENTAL SOCIALISTS.

Comrade Wm. H. Leffingwell has written a pointed article especially dedicated to the sentimental Socialist, who is intending to divide his vote, that in all probability applies generally throughout the United States. For the especial benefit of the Montana sentimentalist, who proposes to vote for Joe Toole and Eugene V. Debs, or otherwise split his vote, we reproduce it in full:

They tell me that you're thinking of splitting your vote—that you think Debs is all right and intend to vote for him, but that "so long as the party has no chance to win, anyway," you'll just vote for John Smith, that most estimable republican gentleman, for congress, or Bill Jones, "the honest democrat."

Don't do it. Vote straight republican. Or, vote the straight democratic ticket. We don't want you to vote for Debs!

That may sound rather strange to you. Not very good politics, eh? Let me show you that, although strange, it is the best sort of politics. You have been voting all these years—for what? Principles or men? You have been voting for men. Trying, ever so hard, to get "good honest men" into office. And you've succeeded, too—sometimes. But are your conditions any better? You know they are not; that's why you are reading a Socialist paper. But, although you think Socialism an attractive subject, you are not quite convinced that it is what you want. Well, then, don't vote for it.

Debs isn't Socialism, Hanford isn't Socialism. They are Socialists—and men. If you were to elect Debs, and Debs only, he couldn't do a thing. You'll have to elect Debs and Hanford and a majority of the men in congress and in the state legislatures. You'll have to elect Socialist governors, Socialist lieutenant governors—in fact, you'll have to put the Socialists in power before they can start to work on the co-operative commonwealth.

A vote for Debs is a vote for a man. He is a good man, no doubt, or we wouldn't have put him up (you only have our word for that, though), but nevertheless, in the last analysis he is only a man and to you only a name.

But a vote for the Socialist party is a vote for Socialism. And it is backed, not only by the candidates, but by a large and active party membership. A party composed of workingmen who know absolutely what they want and what they expect of their candidates. And by the way, you can join in too if you want to, which is more than can be said of either the republican or democratic parties. A party membership that wants a change in the industrial system and which means to see that it gets it, too. Woe unto that candidate that strays from the paths of rectitude when it is discovered by the Socialist party membership.

A vote was recently taken in Chicago on the question of municipal ownership. It carried by a two-thirds majority. The men elected to carry out this promise were "good" republicans and democrats. It was a "reform" council. Did they carry out the will of the people? Not at all. And they don't intend to. Did the people do anything? Not a thing. How could they? They were not organized. Almost half of the workingmen voted the republican ticket and a little more than half of them the democratic ticket—but not because it was a democratic or a republican ticket, but because the fellows they voted for were such good, holy fellows. And none of these workingmen belonged to the parties which they had put in power. Did not have a word to say about anything. Just had the choice of voting for Smith or Jones.

Suppose, however, that the 200,000 people who said they wanted municipal ownership by their votes were organized into a body, conscious of what they were doing, and, as an organized body had backed up their votes with a Demand! Do you suppose the men they had elected would have dared to refuse to serve them? Not on your life.

And that's just the kernel. If you want Socialism, vote for it, don't vote for Debs. Vote the entire Socialist ticket—we cannot do a thing if you don't and consequently don't want you to give us your vote. Vote the entire ticket—put them all in office and then, after you have elected these men, follow up your vote with a Demand for Socialism by joining the party and taking an active part in its affairs. Don't be a looker-on. If you want to make your vote count—always follow it up with a Demand!

And, if you are not prepared to "vote 'er straight," for heaven's sake give Parker or Roosevelt a chance to show you that you ought to do it next time.

Credit is due "Next" of Seattle for the use of their cartoon styled "The Home of the Parasites," reproduced in our issue of October 19th, and also to The Crisis of Salt Lake for use of their cartoon styled "The Old Wall Is Crumbling," in our issue of October 12th. Beg to acknowledge the oversight.

Complaint is lodged by the state secretary on account of the apathy shown by the secretaries of the various locals throughout the state, and others active in the movement on account of the delict manner in answering correspondence. Comrade Graham is an untiring worker and needs the assistance of every comrade in order to carry on his work successfully. Comrades, be heedful.